

# Dining Ideas Include \$500 No-Food Option, Closing 3 Dining Halls

By Nick Bushak  
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Two separate committees — one half-full of students, one all-student — have issued draft proposals about how to fix dining at MIT. So far, student reaction has been relatively mild.

Students are most concerned that the administration-chartered Blue Ribbon Committee wants residents of dorms with dining halls to pay \$600 per semester and get a “declining-balance” dining account. Currently they pay \$300 and get half off whatever meals they buy. The Blue Ribbon proposal would let students whose dorms have dining hall pay \$500 and receive nothing.

The entirely undergraduate Dining Proposal Committee has also attracted concern by proposing that

three current dining halls be closed. Some students who don’t like the committee’s suggestion that MIT should close the McCormick Hall dining hall soon and close the Baker and Simmons dining halls in the long term. Some students are also unsure about the committee’s proposal to build a large, centralized dining hall.

Gloria S. Lee ’09, a resident of Baker House, said that she did not understand why the Blue Ribbon proposal doubled the mandatory payments for students living in dorms Bike Baker House. “In exchange for what?,” she asked.

In exchange for \$600, students would get \$600 to spend in dining halls, money that would disappear at the end of the semester. The \$600

Dining Proposals, Page 14

# Student Tested For Swine Flu; Results Aren’t In Yet

Meanwhile, Harvard Closes Dental School in Boston

By Michael McGraw-Herdeg  
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

An MIT student was diagnosed with influenza yesterday, and samples taken from the student are being tested for the H1N1 swine flu. The test was routine and the student is not at high risk of having contracted H1N1 swine flu, an MIT physician said.

The student, who reportedly lives off campus, has not engaged in travel or done anything else that would increase their risk of exposure to swine flu, said Howard M. Heller, chief of internal medicine at MIT Medical.

Samples from all confirmed cases of influenza virus type A are now routinely sent to the state health board to check whether the infection is swine flu. The test typically takes several days.

Meanwhile, the Harvard School of Dental Medicine and its dental clinic were closed Friday while the Boston Public Health Commission investigated one probable case of swine flu, the *Boston Globe* reported. The commission requested that classes be cancelled for third- and fourth-year and post-doctoral stu-

Swine Flu, Page 14

# Many AP Test Instructors See Problems With Program

By Jacques Steinberg  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

A survey of more than 1,000 teachers of Advanced Placement courses in American high schools has found that more than half are concerned that the program’s effectiveness is being threatened as districts loosen restrictions on who can take such rigorous courses and as students flock to them to polish their résumés.

The study, by the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, an educational research and advocacy organization, noted the sharp growth in the A.P. program’s popularity. The number of high school students who took at least one college-level A.P. course increased by 45 percent, to 1.6 million

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# Dalai Lama Shares His Wisdom, Humor in Kresge Auditorium

By Elijah Jordan Turner  
ASSOCIATE NEWS EDITOR

For the second time in six years, the Dalai Lama spoke at MIT. But while last time he was a visiting guest, yesterday he was speaking to inaugurate a new center at MIT, the Dalai Lama Center for Ethics and Transformative Values.

As the Dalai Lama walked onto the stage in a sold-out Kresge Auditorium, the crowd fell silent.

He met the audience with a distinctive anjali greeting, pressing his hands together and bowing repeatedly. Then, after a brief introduction, he began to speak.

First he spoke to the global economy and the confounding nature of free markets: “Something’s human-created, but it’s beyond human control?”

The rest of his talk focused on the role of ethics in secular education. Secularism does not mean rejecting religion, he said; it means “respect for all religions.” Ethics can exist without depending on a particular religion, he said.

Dalai Lama, Page 14



ADITI VERMA—THE TECH

His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso, addresses a packed Kresge Auditorium on Thursday afternoon at the inaugural event of The Dalai Lama Center of Ethics and Transformative Values, a venture under MIT’s Office of Religious Life.

## Bizarre Assault Targets MIT Employee

Wednesday morning, a female MIT employee was confronted by a white male wearing sunglasses on the river side of Memorial Drive, opposite E52, according to a crime alert bulletin released yesterday by the MIT Police.

### News Briefs

The perpetrator asked if the employee was a “nurse or a doctor,” and threatened to stab her with an 8” knife if she were a doctor, the bulletin said.

The perpetrator was described as medium build, 5’7”–5’9” in height, in his forties, wearing a red t-shirt, black baseball cap, jeans, and dirty white sneakers.

Cambridge and MIT police both responded, but did not locate the perpetrator.

—John A. Hawkinson

# Students Scramble to Pay Rising Tuition Bills

By Jacques Steinberg  
THE NEW YORK TIMES

LOS ANGELES

Each afternoon this spring, Brennan Jackson, an A-student who ranks near the top of his high school class, has arrived at his guidance counselor’s office to intercept the latest scholarship applications, as if they were a newspaper landing on his front stoop.

Because his father is out of work and his mother works only part time, Brennan has set an ambitious goal for himself: to raise the \$25,000 he still needs for his freshman year at the University of California, Berkeley, by stitching together a quilt of merit scholarships.

“We need to spread our resources as far as possible,” he said the other night, over a family dinner of reheated eggplant parmigiana. “I guess I feel a little responsible.”

The stress has taken its toll: Brennan’s guidance counselor blames it for the boy’s thinning hair, and Brennan points to his scholarship search as the cause of a recent outbreak of acne.

While Brennan’s situation, and the remedy he is pursuing, may sound extremely ambitious, guidance counselors across the country say they can recall no prior year in which so many applicants’ families have been squeezed by so many financial pressures.

Tuition, Page 10



ERIC D. SCHMIEDL—THE TECH

Robert A. Boyd ’10 lifts his bike off the repair stand outside the Zesiger Sports and Fitness Center after using the stand’s built-in bike pump to inflate his tires on Wednesday afternoon. MIT installed bicycle repair stands next to the Z-Center and next to the Stata Center recently.



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Arlen Specter’s switch gives the Democrats a chance to succeed, or screw up.

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School dining halls eliminate cafeteria trays to cut costs — and they might avoid the freshman 15.

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# WORLD & NATION

## Heavy Battles Are Raging With Taliban in Pakistan

By Carlotta Gall and Salman Masood

THE NEW YORK TIMES

ISLAMABAD, PAKISTAN

Heavy fighting raged for a third day in Pakistan’s northwest on Thursday as civilians flooded from the area and the Pakistani military reported some gains in pushing back Taliban insurgents.

The Pakistani military secured mountain passes to the west and south of Buner, a district 60 miles from the capital, according to its spokesman, Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas, who spoke at a news briefing at the military headquarters in Rawalpindi. Helicopter gunships also rocketed Taliban positions in the north of Buner, where the militants had apparently fortified positions in areas adjoining their stronghold in the Swat Valley.

While government forces consolidated control of Buner’s main town, Daggar, Abbas said it could take still another week for the operation to clear the whole district of militants, as the military was proceeding slowly to defuse booby traps and avoid civilian casualties.

## Now, U.S. Sees Pakistan as A Cause Distinct from Afghanistan

By Mark Landler and Elisabeth Bumiller

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The big idea behind the Obama administration’s long-in-the-making policy for Afghanistan and Pakistan was that the two countries were inextricably linked. The key to stabilizing Afghanistan, the White House concluded five weeks ago, was a stable and cooperative Pakistan.

That calculation has been utterly scrambled by the Taliban offensive in western Pakistan, which has forced the United States to concentrate on the singular task of preventing further gains in Pakistan by an Islamic militant insurgency that has claimed territory just 60 miles from Islamabad.

“We’re no longer looking at how Pakistan could help Afghanistan,” said a senior administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation. “We’re looking at what we could do to help Pakistan get through this period.”

President Barack Obama and his top advisers have been meeting almost daily to discuss options for helping the Pakistani government and military repel the offensive. But those conversations are complicated by deepening doubts within the administration about Pakistan’s civilian and military authorities, and by resistance in Congress, which has attached strict conditions to \$400 million in U.S. aid to buttress Pakistan’s counterinsurgency capabilities.

## Judicial Power on Mortgages Is Rejected in a Senate Vote

By Stephen Labaton

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

The Senate handed a victory to the banking industry on Thursday, defeating a Democratic proposal that would have given homeowners in financial trouble greater flexibility to renegotiate the terms of their mortgages.

The House of Representatives, meanwhile, overwhelmingly approved a bill backed by the Obama administration that would limit the ability of credit card companies to charge high fees and penalties. The bill, approved 357-70, still faces obstacles in the Senate, where — as the action on Thursday illustrated — the industry has more clout, particularly among Republicans and moderate Democrats. In recent days the White House, partly in response to polls showing the significant public outrage over high fees charged by credit card companies, has begun to work for its passage.

# At Chrysler, Diverse Partners With Many Goals Cooperate

By David E. Sanger

THE NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON

Before Chrysler can start building cars that more Americans want to buy, it will have to overcome considerable challenges.

The biggest may be persuading its three principal new owners — the retirement fund for the labor union that President Barack Obama himself said was part of the company’s problems; a government that insists it will keep its hands off day-to-day decisions; and a foreign car company, Fiat — to innovate in ways the carmaker has resisted for three decades.

There is reason for skepticism. For all the optimism expressed by the administration about a downsized, leaner Chrysler, the structure of the new Chrysler sets the stage for a conflict between current workers and retirees.

Chrysler’s workers, of course, are desperate to preserve their job security, wages and generous health care benefits, built up over years of negotiations. But it is Chrysler’s retirees who will hold a seat on the new company’s board, representing

the interests of a dwindling — and expensive — retirement health plan.

“There’s a potential conflict there, absolutely,” one of Obama’s aides absented Thursday.

The innovative element of the new company is supposed to come from Fiat, the Italian automaker that managed a remarkable turnaround in the past five years. Without question, Fiat turns out fuel-efficient engines and sporty, economical small cars — exactly the image of the future American car industry that Obama talks about in glowing terms.

But when Chrysler was controlled by Daimler-Benz, one of Europe’s most successful luxury carmakers, everyone hailed the potential of great cross-border synergies. They simply never materialized.

Members of the team that negotiated the deal insisted on Thursday that they had explored all those risks as they designed the revamped Chrysler and faced down a group of recalcitrant lenders who balked Wednesday night at taking a deal that would give them about 28 cents for every dollar they had lent the company over the years.

The United Automobile Workers will not be managing the company the way unions tried, and failed, to manage United Airlines, they said. Moreover, Fiat is not Daimler — it is geared toward small, mid-market cars, not fine driving machines with wood-burl dashboards, they added.

Obama is trying to portray the government’s role as more venture capitalist than manager. “I’m not an auto engineer,” the president declared Wednesday evening during the news conference marking his 100th day in office. “But I know that if the Japanese can design an affordable, well-designed hybrid, then doggone it, the American people should be able to do the same.”

In fact, in Chrysler’s case, he is relying on Italian technology — Fiat technology — to do what Chrysler has been unable to do itself. And while the White House does not want to advertise that fact as Chrysler embarks on its latest last chance, the plan is for Chrysler to ultimately be a subsidiary of Fiat, in a turnabout of fortune like those in the early days of the auto industry, when giants were consumed by faster-moving competitors.

# Adela Maria Gutierrez, A Victim of Flu and Delay

By Marc Lacey and Elisabeth Malkin

THE NEW YORK TIMES

OAXACA, MEXICO

Adela Maria Gutierrez fell ill on April 1 with what she thought was a bad cold. She tried aspirin and antibiotics, bed rest and moist towels, but nothing brought down her soaring fever, reduced her aches and pains, or boosted her energy level.

It would be eight days before Gutierrez went to Oaxaca’s general hospital, where she arrived listless and barely able to breathe, her extremities blue from a lack of oxygen. That delay in getting expert help may explain why Gutierrez, 39, a mother of daughters ages 10, 17 and 20, became Mexico’s first death from a new, virulent strain of influenza A (H1N1). It may also explain why Mexico’s death toll from the virus is higher than anywhere else’s.

Epidemiologists are still puzzled by the virus, its origins and its modes of transmission. But they agree that prompt medical attention is crucial to treating it. That has been where Mexico, which the World Health Organization said Thursday had 97 confirmed cases and seven deaths, lags far behind.

“People wait too long to go to doctors,” said Dr. Marcelo Nogera, undersecretary of health for Oaxaca state. “That’s a problem here in Mexico. If we can treat a disease like this early, we can stay ahead.”

There may well be other factors to explain why patients in Mexico like Gutierrez, whose medical records show a desperate, belated scramble by a team of doctors to keep her alive, are dying at what appears to be a higher rate than swine flu patients elsewhere. Mexicans may have been hit by a different, deadlier strain of the flu, or it

may have infected more people who had other health problems, researchers speculate.

But one important factor may be the eclectic approach to health care in Mexico, where large numbers of people self-prescribe antibiotics, swear by homeopathic medicine, or seek out mysterious vitamin injections. For many, only when all else fails do they go to a doctor.

“I think it has to do with the culture, the idiosyncrasies of Mexicans,” said Dr. Nicolas Padilla, an epidemiologist at the University of Guanajuato. “The idea is that I don’t go to the doctor until I feel very bad.”

But there are logistical reasons, as well, that compel Mexicans to steer clear of hospitals. At overcrowded public facilities, they complain, they are often turned away, treated by indifferent doctors or made to wait endlessly.

# WEATHER

## There Is No Weather Machine!

By Elizabeth Maroon

STAFF METEOROLOGIST

Ever since the gorgeous weather during CPW, I have been receiving more “Nice job with the Weather Machine” comments than ever. As one of the few undergrad meteorologists, I usually just laugh it off. But recently, the rate at which I’ve been asked “Why did you make it rain all week?” has begun to annoy me. Let me set the score straight: the weather machine is a myth.

“Conspiracy!” you might yell. “What is that giant white golf ball on the roof of the Green Building if it is not a Weather Machine?” That giant sphere is the shell of an old operational radar. The equipment inside was transferred to the Lincoln Laboratory in the late nineties, but it was active, it was something to behold. In 1953, this radar caught evidence of the destructive Worcester tornado that killed 94 and caused \$62 million in damage. The shell of that radar is not a weather machine. You’re skeptical, I can tell. Well, do you honestly believe that a handful of ambitious meteorology students have the desire to control Cambridge’s chaotic weather? Shouldn’t we be solving global warming first?

### Extended Forecast

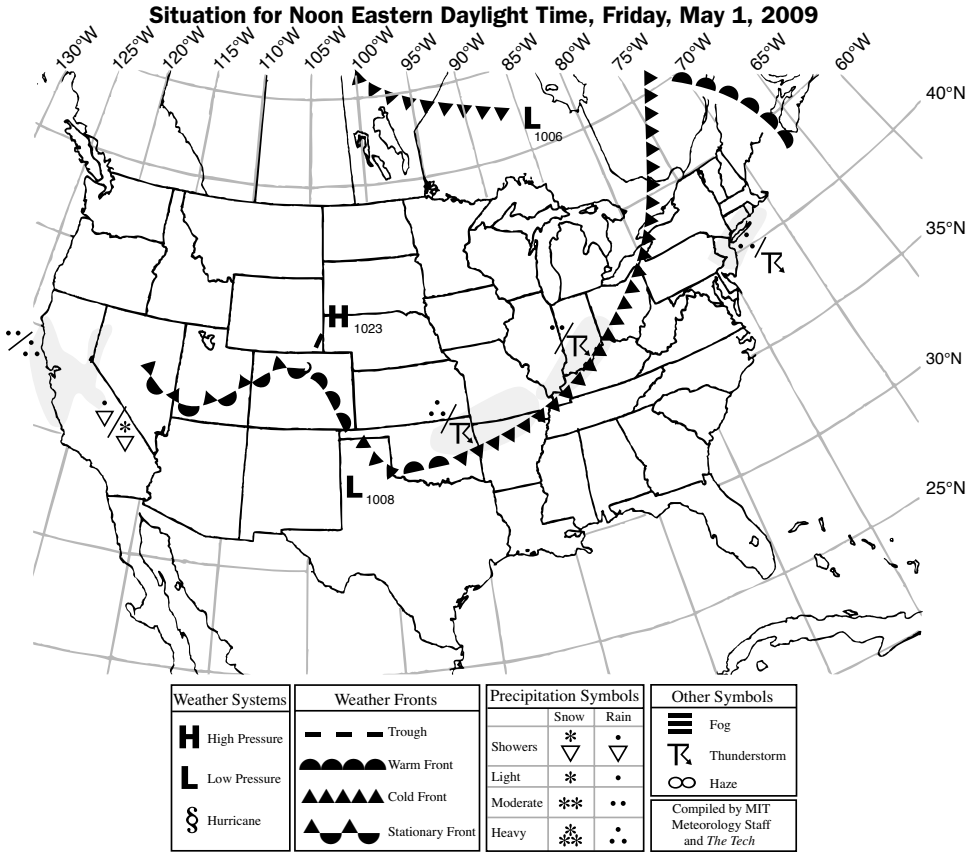
**Today:** Wind from the southwest near 20mph with a possibility of rain in the morning. Overcast in the afternoon with a high of 73°F (23°C).

**Tonight:** Breezy, with a chance for showers remains into the evening. Low near 54°F (12°C).

**Saturday:** Mostly cloudy with a chance for rain showers remaining. High near 64°F (18°C)

**Saturday night:** Overcast, with a slight chance for showers early on. Low in the upper 40s°F.

**Sunday:** Mostly cloudy, with a chance of rain. Honestly, if we had a weather machine, why would we make campus grey and drizzly all weekend long? We wouldn’t do that to the campus, even if it would provide better results for my 12.307 project...



# NATO Expels 2 Russian Diplomats on Spy Charge

By Clifford J. Levy  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

MOSCOW  
NATO has expelled two Russian diplomats from its headquarters in Brussels over accusations of espionage, officials said Thursday, threatening a new rift between the two sides just as relations were beginning to improve.

NATO would not publicly comment on the move, but the timing was striking. On Wednesday, NATO and Russia resumed their first formal contacts since they had been ruptured over the war last August between Russia and neighboring Georgia.

Dmitri O. Rogozin, Russia’s ambassador to NATO, called the expulsions a “clear-cut provocation,” saying that Russia was not engaging in spying and indicating that it would retaliate.

The identities of the diplomats expelled suggested that NATO considered the matter serious. One is a senior official in Russia’s mission to NATO, and the other is the son of Russia’s ambassador to the European Union, which is also based in Brussels, Belgium.

It seems likely that Russia will

seek to expel two Western diplomats from Moscow, as is customary in these kinds of diplomatic rows. The question is whether it will escalate tensions by once again breaking off official ties with NATO. The Russian foreign minister, Sergey V. Lavrov, is scheduled to conduct high-profile talks with his NATO counterparts in May.

The two sides had already been grappling over NATO military exercises scheduled in Georgia in May and June. Russia’s president, Dmitri A. Medvedev, sharply criticized the exercises, which had been long planned and are relatively modest in size. When NATO would not cancel them, Russia withdrew from a meeting of military officials.

Georgia would like to join NATO over the objections of Russia, which has contended that the alliance is moving into areas that have traditionally been within Moscow’s zone of influence. The August war, which Russia easily won, broke out over two separatist regions of Georgia that have close ties to Russia.

Also Thursday, Russia signed an agreement with the two regions, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, giving Russia

authority to guard their borders. Both Georgia and its Western allies said the agreement violated the cease-fire that ended the war.

In Brussels, Rogozin said that after a meeting Wednesday of the NATO-Russia Council, he was asked to speak privately with the secretary-general of NATO, Jaap de Hoop Scheffer.

“In the course of this,” Rogozin said, “it was stated to me the following: NATO is outraged at Russia over its carrying out of spying activities against NATO, and also the member countries of the alliance.”

Rogozin said the two Russian diplomats whose NATO credentials were revoked — Viktor N. Kochukov, a senior political officer, and Vasily V. Chizhov — had nothing to do with spying. Chizhov is the son of Vladimir A. Chizhov, Russia’s ambassador to the European Union, officials said.

Rogozin contended that the NATO decision was in response to an espionage scandal in Estonia, a NATO member and former Soviet republic. A senior Estonian security official was convicted there on charges of spying for Russia.

# Gates Says U.S. May Need to Keep 100 Guantanamo Detainees

By Elisabeth Bumiller and William Glaberson  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

WASHINGTON  
Defense Secretary Robert Gates suggested Thursday that as many as 100 detainees would be held without trial on American soil if the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was closed, a situation that he acknowledged would create widespread if not unanimous opposition in Congress.

The estimate was the most specific yet from the Obama administration about how many of the 241 prisoners at Guantanamo could not be safely released, sent to other countries or appropriately tried in U.S. courts. In January, President Barack Obama ordered the prison closed by the end of the year, but his administration is still trying to decide what to do with the detainees.

Gates said discussions had started this week with the Justice Department about determining how many of the Guantanamo detainees could not be sent to other countries or tried in courts. He did not say which detainees might be in that group, but independent experts have said it

probably would include terrorism suspects whom the military has not yet brought charges against, among them detainees from Yemen and the Qaida figure Abu Zubaydah, who was subjected to brutal interrogation in secret prisons run by the CIA.

“What do we do with the 50 to 100 — probably in that ballpark — who we cannot release and cannot try?” Gates said in a hearing before the Senate Appropriations Committee.

He did not say whether the detainees would be imprisoned temporarily or indefinitely or under what law they would be held. The Obama administration is debating how to establish a legal basis for incarcerating detainees deemed too dangerous to be released but not appropriate to be tried because of potential problems posed by their harsh interrogations, the evidence against them or other issues.

Some Republicans have become increasingly vocal in asserting that the administration has not come up with a viable alternative to the Guantanamo prison. “The question of where the terrorists at Guantanamo will be sent is no joking matter,” Sen.

Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., the minority leader, said in a statement Thursday. “The administration needs to tell the American people how it will keep the terrorists at Guantanamo out of our neighborhoods and off of the battlefield.”

At the hearing, Gates said he had asked for \$50 million in supplemental financing in case a facility needed to be built quickly for the detainees. He did not specify what kind of facility or where it might be, but he acknowledged that it would be unpopular in most places.

“I fully expect to have 535 pieces of legislation before this is over saying ‘not in my district, not in my state,’” Gates said. “We’ll just have to deal with that when the time comes.”

On Wednesday in Berlin, Attorney General Eric Holder said the legal basis for holding any detainees was still under review. “We have to determine what would be our basis for holding that person that would to the world appear to be fair and that would in fact be fair,” he said. “How could you ensure that due process was being served by the detention of such a person?”

# FDA Orders Warning Label For Botox and Similar Drugs

By Natasha Singer  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Botox and other similar anti-wrinkle drugs must now carry the most stringent kind of warning label, the Food and Drug Administration said Thursday.

The FDA issued that order the day after the agency approved a new drug, Dysport, that is expected to be the first real challenger to Botox in the United States. Like Botox, Dysport is an injectable drug derived from the paralytic agent botulinum toxin.

The FDA said such drugs must carry warning labels explaining that the material has the potential to spread from the injection site to distant parts of the body — with the risk of serious difficulties, like problems with swallowing or breathing.

Requiring a drug to carry a box with bold-face risk information — a so-called black-box warning — is one of the strongest safety actions the FDA can take. Black boxes are typically reserved for medications known to have serious or life-threatening risks. Antidepressants, for example, carry black boxes warning of the increased danger

of suicidal thoughts and actions.

Besides the label warning, the FDA said it would require makers of injectable toxins to send doctors letters warning of their risks and to produce a medication guide to be given to patients at the time of injection.

The agency’s approval of Dysport, manufactured by Ipsen, based in Paris, portends a fierce competition in the United States toxin market of a sort that has been raging in Europe for years.

Last year, Botox had worldwide sales of about \$1.3 billion, according to its maker, Allergan. Dysport had sales of \$189 million, according to an earnings statement from Ipsen.

In the United States, “it’s essentially been — what — an 18-year monopoly for Botox?” said David M. Steinberg, an analyst at Deutsche Bank.

In the absence of serious competition, Allergan has been able to raise the drug’s price annually. But Dysport, which in Europe has been priced lower than Botox, has the potential to capture up to 20 percent of the market in this country, he said.

“Many doctors have been clamoring for another option,” Steinberg said.

Injectable botulinum toxins are purified forms of the bacterial poison that causes botulism, a paralyzing disease that can be fatal. The drugs work by temporarily reducing or halting muscle activity.

In the last 20 years, the FDA has approved Botox to treat crossed eyes, eyelid spasms, severe underarm sweating and cervical dystonia, a neck problem that can cause severe pain and abnormal head position. Under the name Botox Cosmetic, the drug is also approved to treat frown lines.

In 2000, the agency approved a different type of the toxin, Myobloc, to treat cervical dystonia.

On Wednesday, the agency approved Dysport for frown lines and cervical dystonia.

Medicis Pharmaceutical, a company in Scottsdale, Ariz., that has the rights to sell Dysport for frown lines in the United States, said it planned to bring the drug to market within 60 days. Ipsen will market the drug in this country for the neck problem.

## Same-Sex Marriage Bill Advances in Maine

By Abby Goodnough  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES* BOSTON

Maine could be the next New England state to embrace same-sex marriage after the state Senate voted Thursday to legalize the practice.

The Democratic-controlled Senate voted 21-14 for a bill that would allow gay couples to marry starting later this year. The measure appears to have even broader support in the House of Representatives, which will take it up on Tuesday.

Gov. John Baldacci, a Democrat, used to oppose same-sex marriage. But since the bill was introduced in January, he has said he is keeping an open mind.

The vote was the latest victory for gay rights groups in New England, which are campaigning to get same-sex marriage approved in all six of the region’s states by 2012. Massachusetts and Connecticut already allow same-sex marriage, and the Vermont Legislature approved it last month.

The New Hampshire legislature is likely to send a same-sex marriage bill to Gov. John Lynch in the coming weeks, though Lynch, a Democrat and an opponent, might veto it. A bill has been introduced in the Rhode Island legislature but is unlikely to be acted on this year.

## Eden? Maybe. But Where’s the Apple Tree?

By Nicholas Wade  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Locations for the Garden of Eden have been offered many times before, but seldom in the somewhat inhospitable borderland where Angola and Namibia meet.

A new genetic survey of people in Africa, the largest of its kind, suggests, however, that the region in southwest Africa seems, on the present evidence, to be the origin of modern humans. The authors have also identified some 14 ancestral populations.

The new data goes far toward equalizing the genetic picture of the world, given that most genetic information has come from European and Asian populations. But because it comes from Africa, the continent on which the human lineage evolved, it also sheds light on the origins of human life.

“I think this is an enormously impressive piece of work,” said Alison Brooks, a specialist on African anthropology at George Washington University.

The origin of a species is generally taken to be the place where its individuals show the greatest genetic diversity. For humans, when the new African data is combined with DNA information from the rest of the world, this spot lies on the coast of southwest Africa near the Kalahari Desert, the research team, led by Sarah A. Tishkoff of the University of Pennsylvania, said in this week’s issue of Science.

## Motorola Scrambles to Revive Its Lost Cell-Phone Glory

By Matt Richtel  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

Motorola has had its ups and downs. Fifteen years ago, a gray brick Motorola handset was synonymous with mobile phone. Sales slipped, but the company came back five years ago with the sleek Razzr, the must-have cell phone.

Motorola’s cell-phone sales are now falling at the rate of almost 50 percent a year. Bereft of a smash hit, the company finds itself in its darkest hour. Once responsible for half of the cell-phone sales in the world, its share of the market has plummeted to 6 percent.

Industry analysts are questioning not whether Motorola will again become dominant but whether the handset division will survive.

“They’re stuck heavily in the handset death spiral,” said Edward Snyder, an analyst with Charter Equity Research. “If they have tens of billions of dollars they want to pour into this black hole, they might be able to save it. Even then, there are no guarantees.”

Sanjay K. Jha, Motorola’s co-chief executive who was brought in from Qualcomm last year, still contends he can fix the handset business. He said that for now, he was not interested in market share or hit products — not with losses mounting. “I’m interesting in break-even performance,” he said in an interview. “I’m trying to build a stable machine.

“We need to have profits under all circumstances, and then have hits on top of that,” he said Thursday after Motorola announced that the operating loss in the handset division grew to \$509 million in the first quarter from a loss of \$418 million a year ago.

These are seemingly modest goals for a company that has strong brand recognition. But new tough competitors like LG, Samsung and Apple have transformed the market with phones that can do anything a computer can do and more.

## Immigration Agents to Turn Their Focus to Employers

By Ginger Thompson  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES* WASHINGTON

In an effort to crack down on illegal labor, the Department of Homeland Security intends to step up enforcement efforts against employers who knowingly hire such workers.

Under guidelines to be issued Thursday to Immigration and Customs Enforcement field offices, agents will be instructed to take aim at employers and supervisors for prosecution “through the use of carefully planned criminal investigations.”

Senior officials of the Homeland Security Department said Wednesday that illegal workers would continue to be detained in raids on workplaces. But the officials said they hoped to mark an abrupt departure from past practices by making those arrests as part of an effort to build criminal and civil cases against employers.

Under the Bush administration, the officials said, most raids were conducted largely on the basis of tips that an employer was hiring illegal workers, rather than on information gleaned from audits of employer records or undercover investigations. As a result, agents rounded up thousands of illegal immigrants but rarely developed the evidence necessary to show whether businesses were knowingly using illegal labor.



# OPINION



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## Everyone Can Learn from Bombed Hack

Last Friday's hack by Burton-Connor House and the subsequent investigation by MIT police, the Cambridge Fire Department and Cambridge Bomb Squad once again brought to the fore lingering questions regarding the relationship between MIT police and the hacking culture on campus. This most recent event especially highlighted the need for MIT students, administrators, and police to develop a common understanding of the obligations each group holds in our unique community.

While we do not claim to assign malicious intent to the officers that responded to the incident last Friday morning — clearly there was a failure in the process. Residents of Burton-Conner House should not be put in the position where they are threatened with tens of thousands of dollars in fines for their role in continuing a campus tradition in a harmless, if ill-considered manner.

The responsibility for ensuring that such a reaction is not repeated in the future must be shared by both students in the hacking community and by the MIT Police. Students have the obligation to provide confidential tips to the police for any hack that might be construed as a threat to public safety or to those tasked with the hack's removal. Administrators should ensure that policy is in place to protect those providing such tips from punishment or prosecution.

On the other hand, officers of the MIT Police needs to be made more intimately aware of (and sensitive to) the unique characteristics and traditions of the Institute. The DTYD event — one of the best known traditions associated with Burton-Conner — has been a fixture on campus since the early 1970s and has long been preceded by a hack to advertise the event. The party itself is even registered with the MIT Police.

The fact that members of the campus police did not recognize the yearly DTYD hack reflects a need for the force to redouble their efforts in understanding the student community. A deeper understanding of the hacking culture and student culture in general will not only help officers make MIT a safer place, it will also help prevent future misunderstandings which may needlessly tie up the personnel and resources of Cambridge's public safety departments.

Friday's incident should be seen as a great opportunity for hackers and the MIT police to learn from mistakes. Hackers should be vigilant in ensuring that hacks do not cause undue concern and be conscious of the response it may illicit. In turn, MIT police must work towards developing a deeper understanding of the hacking tradition and MIT's unique campus dynamic.

*Michael McGraw-Herdeg has secluded himself from this editorial.*

## Letters To The Editor

### Alum Fed Up With Admins

I graduated M.I.T. in 2000, just in time to see a thriving campus life undercut time after time by overzealous security measures enacted by spineless administrators in the face of mobs of Cambridge citizens and failed parents looking to the university system as a surrogate. I've seen the fraternity system whittled down and student freedoms trampled, their voices silenced on issue after issue, as former school bureaucrats move on to positions of power (or is that infamy) in certain (here unnamed) governments.

Now I read that the school is forcing the Burton Third Bombers to pay for a spurious bomb scare all bit the most obtuse Homer Simpson caricature would have dismissed instantly.

Any chance that I would ever donate to M.I.T. again is now gone. I would, however, like to help the Bombers (who were so very good to me) in their financial plight. I call on my fellow alumni to do the same: divert your contributions directly to student associations you support. Don't let them use your money to destroy what makes our school unique.

If you let this stand, don't blame me when the next car atop Lobby 10 results in terrorism prosecutions.

Scott M. Miller '00

### Concerned Parent Suggests Other Options

As a parent of a sophomore gymnast, I've also been disappointed with MIT's process of reducing DAPER's budget. Maybe some sports needed to be cut, but the lack of inclusion, and the lack of creativity goes against MIT's reputation as the incubator of future discoveries and discoverers. The cuts have been made. Why not now harness the collective brainpower of the larger MIT community, and consider these questions:

Why not extend the life of the cut sports another year? By stating that a sport will be discontinued in one year, MIT can:

Tell current applicants of the long range intention to cut a sport so they have full information into their admission acceptance decision.

Honor the implicit "psychological contract" with current students who chose MIT believing their sport would be available for the full 4 years.

Give current athletes the ability to transfer elsewhere to continue their athletic commitment. Now cut-athletes have no options other than compete at a club level (which isn't available to all cut sports) or sit out a year while they apply elsewhere for Fall 2010.

2) Why not implement "user fees" as temporary funding? Adding user fees could serve as temporary "bridge funding" giving DAPER time to phase out the sports, identify other fund raising ideas, and further pursue cost cutting measures. A user fee of only \$400 per student per sport would have generated \$320,000 towards the \$480K required.

3) Why not allow teams to self-fund according to their own plan? Currently DAPER is requiring a full endowment as the only way a cut sport can be reinstated. Why? Why not permit teams to generate a wide array of revenue sources? Granted that will take some time. But

why meet immediate cost-cut targets at the expense of long term revenue?

4) Why not challenge old practices in this new reality? It may take a decade for college endowments to recover. Schools may need to move beyond the conventional 100% funding model for varsity sports:

Athletes may have to pay-to-play fees

Or athletes and colleges share costs; for example, MIT pays for staff, equipment and facility and athletes pay their travel costs.

5) Why not position MIT as the game changer by creating a new sports funding paradigm for the future? Let's apply the same out-of-the-box thinking MIT is famous for to its own administrative decision making. Why not enable MIT's students to learn from their administrators as well as their faculty?

Mary Shapiro

### Tech Trades Crown Jewels

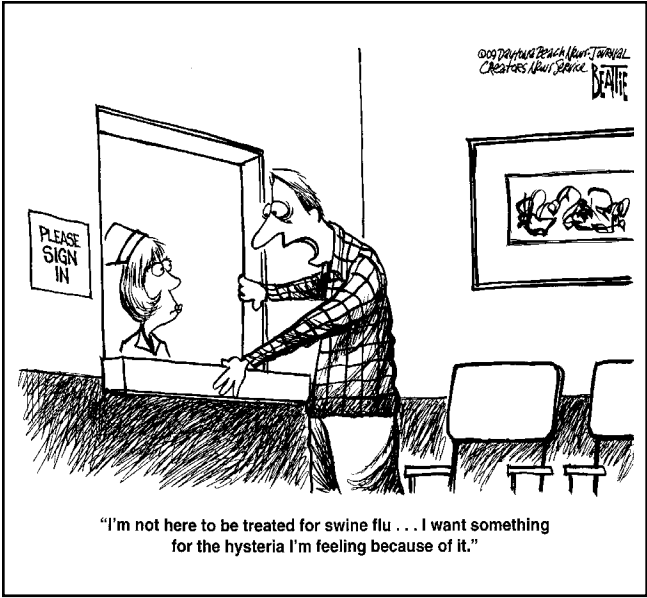
It appears that MIT varsity sports have just had their Tiananmen Square. Sensing increasing popular discontent, the Red (and gray) Brigade of MIT preempted its own schedule for announcing that 8 varsity sports will be cut. Rather than waiting until the planned date of 30 April, coaches of the offending sports were peremptorily summoned Wednesday afternoon the 22nd to an early morning meeting Thursday where they were handed their execution orders. No questions, no appeals, no student input. Maybe this is the new Institute way, but out here we call it railroading.

The broad diversity of sports opportunities at MIT should be viewed as a strength and a source of pride. Is it a weakness that MIT has 23 different courses? In the name of budget efficiency, will a few less-popular majors such as Mathematics be given the axe? Can a savings of 0.05% of the MIT budget possibly make a difference? Is the Institute's bottom line more important than the welfare of the students?

When reunion time approaches, I always look to see who is coming from my fraternity and from my sports teams. These were the people I knew and that I want to see. Now that MIT has monkeyed with both of these, what is it that will bring back future alumni?

In my view, MIT has given away the crown jewels for a few pieces of silver. It will be quite a while before they get any more of mine.

Tom Hafer '70



### Opinion Policy

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# Arlen Specter Switches Parties

Spenser Skates

It's not a happy time to be a Republican. After first losing control of the House of Representatives and the Senate in 2006, and then the White House this past election cycle, the Republican Party has lost a big name Republican senator from a blue state. Specter needed to switch to survive a primary challenge from right wing Republican Pat Toomey. Whatever the politics of the decision, it's given the Democrats what they want: the opportunity for a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate. Assuming Al Franken, Democratic Senator from Minnesota, who is facing a court challenge over the results of the 2008 Minnesota senate election from incumbent Norm Coleman, becomes seated, the Democratic caucus will reach the magic number 60 in the Senate required for shutting down the filibuster.

On the other hand, this gives the Democratic Party a chance to do what they do best: screw up. After taking full control of the legislative and executive branch, voters are going to demand results by the time the 2010 midterm elections roll around. There are huge challenges ahead to provide millions of unemployed Americans with jobs, solve wars plaguing Iraq and Afghanistan, and take leadership on energy and climate change. The first 100 days of the Obama presidency look promising, much like the beginning of his candidacy. The question is if the power to do even bolder things with a new Senate majority is something the Democratic Party can handle.

It's possible for the next few years to go one of two ways. The first way is much like the Carter presidency. The Democratic Party in 1978 faced a tough time with an energy crisis, inflation, and unemployment, but they had control of Congress and the Presidency. Instead of taking advantage of the opportunity to lead, the Carter administration and Congress were brought down by petty squabbling over pork-barrel projects and the inability of Carter to work with Congress to accomplish goals of providing universal health care and jobs.

The other option the Democratic Party has is to take this as a chance to lead. It wouldn't have been surprising if you had thought in 1933 that this was the end of the American dream. In addition to massive unemployment, a complete shutdown of the financial system, a collapse in prices and industrial production, there were environmental disasters like the Dust Bowl. Dust storms all across the Western United States created from years of soil erosion ruined farms, blackened the sky, and even hit cities along the East coast. It appeared as if this could have been the end of times. Yet the Roosevelt administration responded with the most comprehensive set of programs ever seen to take on these challenges and provide relief and recovery in the New Deal that today we remember him as one of our greatest presidents.

The Republican Party has not made the best of choices over the past 8 years. The Democratic Party has made some good ones over Obama's first 100 days in office by providing a stimulus package, shutting down Guantanamo, increasing transparency, and reaching out to allies and enemies. Still, it looked like the Democratic Party made good choices over Jimmy Carter's first 100 days as well. Arlen Specter's switch now gives the Democrats the opportunity to take it to the next level, tackle the biggest problems, and bring results needed to the table.

*Spenser Skates is a member of the Class of 2010.*

# Democrats Need to Go Back to the Blackboard on Education Policy

Keith Yost

Basketball-player-cum-Secretary-of-Education Arne Duncan recently outlined the president's proposal to reform our nation's schools, and for those who follow education policy, the plan was a frustrating let-down. Duncan's plan consisted of two major points: increasing the resources put towards early childhood education and extending the school year. Both are failed strategies that will significantly raise educational costs without significantly improving results.

Early childhood education (education targeted at children younger than five) has been tried before. Begun in 1965, one such program, Head Start, currently spends \$7 billion per year on roughly 900,000 students. Several economic studies, as well as a large scale, intensive congressional study, have concluded that the program has little or no lasting benefit to participants.

To justify extending the school year, Duncan claims that the U.S. educational system is at a "competitive disadvantage" versus the rest of the OECD, where the school years are roughly 10-20 days longer (OECD stands for "Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development," a collection of economies that serve as a good basis of comparison with the U.S). But while it's true that the U.S. school year is comparatively shorter, when it comes to actual hours of instruction that a student receives, the U.S. sits comfortably ahead of its competitors, providing twice as much instruction as Japan, Korea, or Spain.

The question that Duncan should be asking is this: if our educational system does a poor job during the 180 days it currently has with our children, why do we think that they'd do better with more of the same? There seems to be little relationship between the resources that are poured into schools and the results that come out. Sure, we could increase the school year by 20 days and thereby raise the costs of education by 11%, but we already spend twice as much per student as other industrialized nations and get nothing for our effort. Why would this be any different?

For all the talk behind increasing the school day or school year, hiring better credentialed teachers, or reducing class sizes, there really isn't much evidence that these things help on

the scale we need. Between 1960 and 2000, the pupil-teacher ratio went from 25.8 to 16.0, the percent of teachers with master's degrees or better rose from 23.5 to 56.2, the median years of teacher experience climbed from 11 to 15, and our per-pupil expenditure skyrocketed from \$2,235 to \$7,591 (in 2000 dollars). School resources, on a per-student basis, let alone an absolute basis, went up by an astounding factor of 3.4, and what did we get for it? Reading and math stagnated, science dropped like a rock.

The results look even worse by international comparison: the Slovak Republic spends 75 percent less than us and tests just as well, and Finland (where, incidentally, formal education begins at age 7 and early childhood education is rare) spends 40 percent less than us and regularly tops the international metrics.

The real key to successful education is simple: fire bad teachers. The inconvenient truth for Democrats and their teacher-union allies is that teacher quality matters, even if the credentials that supposedly reveal quality (bachelors and masters degrees) aren't of much use. If public schools 1) periodically reviewed teacher performance and 2) weeded out the deadwood, they could improve outcomes without spending a dime. Even more importantly, firing bad teachers would improve the effect of one of the most important spending areas there is: teacher training. Training bad teachers is a low return activity. Training good teachers is a high return activity. Weed out the bad teachers from the good before you sink your resources, and a mediocre dollar spent becomes a great dollar spent.

There is, in theory, nothing preventing a public school system from managing education well. In theory, public school administrators could plunk down the taxpayer's dollar where it matters most. But in practice, they don't. Once hired, teachers are very difficult to fire, and the parents who have the power to make trouble for an administrator find it easier to pull strings and get their students into the classes of the good teachers than fight the system.

The Democrat's dream (as related by Sam Seaborn in a West Wing episode) is to turn schools into palaces where teachers command the salaries and respect commonly accorded to top lawyers and consultants. But this dream confuses the causality at play in the high-paid professional realms. Law, finance, and consulting et al. didn't reach their rarefied heights of

ability merely by paying their workers enormous sums — they reached that level by firing those who couldn't hack it.

You reach pureness by removing impurities... the salaries in these prestigious sectors are in some ways an afterthought, a reflexive measure to prevent other firms from poaching the talent. Of course raising teacher salaries will increase the pool of teachers to select from, but there isn't much of a point if you're not tossing back teachers to begin with. Bad teachers like big salaries just as much as good teachers.

The case for school vouchers is as plain as this: the private market gives actors the incentive to do the right thing. When school administrators have their own money and jobs on the line, they're going to be a lot more willing to rock the boat and cut dead weight loose. School vouchers don't even need to cost the public money: as long as the voucher amount is less than the per-student cost at the public system, every student that switches from the public system to the private system will actually save public schools money.

And if that simple argument isn't enough, consider this: if a poor, inner-city parent wants to give her child a top notch education, what options does she have in the today's system? Instead of just paying the higher cost of education to get her child into a better school (as would be the case in a voucher system), she has to move to an entirely new school district. Instead of just paying for a better education for her child, she'd need to pay for EVERYTHING associated with that move — higher property costs, job transition, etc. We've bundled everything together, and the poor parents who are willing to pay for extra education a la carte don't have that option. Opponents of vouchers base their opposition less on rational analysis than on a fundamental distrust of the market system. What they fail to recognize is that we're already in a market system, but one that has been perversely set up in a way that keeps poor people locked into a cycle of poverty.

President Obama should answer the educational crisis in this country not by incrementally throwing more money at it, but instead by addressing the root cause of the problem, the mismanagement of our school resources. In the process, he should strongly consider school vouchers as the means to the end that all of us desire.

UA Update

Lerman Visits, Executive Positions Approved, and Senate Officers Elected

Before the Senate proceedings last Monday, Vice Chancellor and Dean for Graduate Education Steven R. Lerman '72 met with students for a town-hall style meeting. Based on his experiences with the Institute, Lerman presented his perspective on how life at MIT has changed over the last decades, differences between undergraduate and graduate student culture, and the development of Athena. Additionally, he touched upon the bias that exists in the personnel aspect of the budget cuts due to administrators making the decisions, and he also mentioned the need for renovation both in dormitories and academic buildings.

The Senate meeting itself began with legislation that had been tabled at other meetings. Seventy-five dollars was allocated to fund Palestine@MIT from the UA Fresh Fund. Another bill was passed reforming the position of Secretary General so that the position interfaces better with the relatively new History Committee and the reformed Communications Committee.


The majority of the meeting dealt with approving executive positions and electing Senate officers for the 2009–2010 school year. Paul Baranay '11 was elected Senate Speaker, Timothy J. Stumbaugh '12 was elected to Senate Vice-Chair, Catherine A. Olsson '12 was elected to Senate Representative to Finboard, and Richard A. Dahan '12 was elected Senate Representative to Exec.

Elizabeth A. Denys '11 was confirmed as Secretary General, Alexander W. Dehnert '12 was confirmed as Treasurer, and Quentin Smith '10 (also *The Tech's* technology director) was confirmed as Vice President of Information Systems. The UA Finance Board will be chaired by Danielle J. Wang '11 and co-chaired by Jarrell D. Johnson '10. Cynthia A. Boultdrick '11, Christopher T. Carper '10, Emily Zhao '12, and Suniti Sundaram '11 were approved as members for the Finance Board. The UA Student Committee on Educational Policy will be chaired by Sukrit Ranjan '10, with co-vice-chairs Ankit Gordhandas '10 and Liyan David Chang '12. Rachel Meyer '10 will serve as the Chair of the History Committee, with Dehnert as vice-chair. Alexandra M. Jordan '11 was approved as the vice-chair for the Dining Committee. The Committee on Athletics will have Catherine Melnikow '10 as chair and Zachary W. Rose '10 as vice-chair next year. Aditi Verma '12 will serve as the chair of the Committee on Space Planning. Kashif Rayani '11 will chair the Committee on Student Life and will be working with vice-chairs Daniel D. Hawkins '12 and Dahan. The Committee on Sustainability will be chaired by Samantha G. Wyman '11.

The confirmed nominees to serve on Institute Committees next year is available at <http://ua.mit.edu/nomcomm/nominees2009.pdf>. A new slate for membership Corporation Joint Advisory Committee will be presented for approval at the next Senate meeting on May 11 along with appointments for other UA positions.

Finally, as the both the Dining Proposal Committee and Blue Ribbon Committee on Dining draft reports had been released, Senate discussed what the next steps should be with respect to dining, but decided that further discussion would be needed. An emergency Senate meeting will likely be held next week to address dining.

—Elizabeth Denys, UA Secretary General



Got a lot on your mind?

Share some thoughts with us!

Write for Opinion.

E-mail [join@tech.mit.edu](mailto:join@tech.mit.edu)

Is MIT being fiscally responsible?

Should McCormick Dining shut down?

Should students care about the UA?

(Or actually, come up with your own question — and answer it?)

# CAMPUS LIFE

## Squid vs. Whale

### Three Birds, One Pistol

By Charles Lin  
SENIOR EDITOR

They canceled pistol. Really? I know desperate times call for desperate measures, but times must be really desperate if the Institute's last resort was to anger a bunch of expert marksman. These guys can shoot the clubs out of a playing card from 20 yards, and you want to make them upset? Check the endowment. We must be more broke than Harvard. At least Harvard only had to evict some of the most preeminent biologists in the world to save money.

I'm sure the administration didn't want it to come to this. Facts are facts, the economy sucks and we need to save money by cutting costs in athletics. But despite these cuts, the Institute remains committed to upholding a strong athletic program. After all, nothing says commitment like demoting the best pistol team in the nation. It's not like these guys can't blow the candles off a cake from 50 yards out. Blindfolded.

Sure we get it, guns are expensive. So are

bullets. Pistol was not a particularly cost effective sport. No other sports team takes perfectly good pieces of metal and explosively deforms them as they shoot smiley faces into pieces of paper while hanging upside down from 200 yards out. Perhaps there were ulterior motives in this cancellation.

This is — if you think about it — a higher educator's dream. Next year instead of holding a bake sale to pay teachers, the students of MIT will be selling cup cakes to buy .22 caliber full metal jacket rounds. It's bitter and perfect irony. Take that, Air Force and your bombers.

But whatever the administration's motives, the truth is, we need pistol. The value of the pistol team extends far beyond their ability to hit quarter sized objects 300 yards out while reciting the digits of pi. They were a source of pride for MIT. They were our one really good sports team. Thanks to pistols, we were able to proudly proclaim that we were better than Army at something considered a sport.

We have to do something to save pistol,

something more substantial than selling pistol-shaped cookies and brownies. What if we could harness the pistol team's uncanny abilities for good? What if we could keep pistol and cut costs for the Institute?

It's not an easy compromise, but I think I have a solution. Deputize the pistol team. If they can make Shaq a deputy sheriff, why can't we make the pistol team deputies for campus police? We could improve campus security at a nominal expense. Seriously, what kind of person would commit a crime on campus knowing that an MIT pistol team deputy could take them down in pitch black darkness from 500 yards out at a dead sprint?

Yes, I realize that the pistol team is only trained to use deadly force, something any competent officer knows is a last resort, but in the spirit of the non-lethal craze, we could just issue them Tazer guns. Can someone say, "Don't taze me, bro?"

And yes, I know that there's more to law enforcement than knowing how to use a gun, but these things can be taught over IAP in the

form of house courses. We can have classes on proper procedure, civil rights, and not stealing copies of the student newspaper.

It wouldn't be a perfect education, but as most students are aware, it's not like the police never overreact (especially to Lite-Brites and LED sweatshirts).

Even better, as MIT has always aspired to be a leading and transformational institution, by arming our students on campus, we would catapult to the forefront of the on-campus concealed carry movement.

Granted, this might make the administration uncomfortable. And I'm sure many would harbor deep and serious reservations about the safety and liability of armed students. However, as with hacking, the administration has plenty of experience promoting something to prospective students that they secretly despise and abhor. They'll just have to grin and bear it, while telling tour groups of our imaginative and creative gun-toting students.

With all the added recognition from supporters of the Second Amendment, money will come flowing in to MIT. We will have a safer campus, and the pistol team can train in real world situations. It's a win, win, win situation.

MIT is lucky enough to have an extremely skilled pistol team that can shoot three birds with one bullet while taking a swim test from a half mile out on a stormy night. Why not make the most of it?

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

The 2009 Annual Meeting of the Zeta Mu Chapter House Corporation of Kappa Alpha Theta will be held on Sunday, May 3, 2009, at 1:00 P.M. at Green Hall at MIT, 350 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA. This meeting is open to all members of the Zeta Mu Chapter House Corporation.

**Biodiesel@MIT HAS A PROCESSOR ON CAMPUS!**  
Come check it out:

Friday May 1<sup>st</sup>  
7 pm – 9 pm

Check our website for the meeting location  
(web.mit.edu/biodiesel)

Come learn about the group, take a tour of the new processing facility in NW-14, and learn how to get a PAID UROP for the summer. And there will be FOOD.

## Video Games For Gift Cards.

Participants are needed for a video game research study. Spend 20 minutes with our game and get a \$5 gift card. By appointment only.

Times available 10am – 5pm. Monday 4/27 and Monday 5/4.

Contact jsbegy@mit.edu to schedule.

Japanese Association of MIT presents  
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URL: <http://web.mit.edu/jam>  
E-mail: [nihonjinkai-request@mit.edu](mailto:nihonjinkai-request@mit.edu)

**縁日 - Ennichi - Today 7-9pm**  
**NW35 Hulsizer Room**

**Sushi, Japanese snacks, traditional games,  
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**Free Admission**  
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**Combo ticket - \$5**  
**(Sushi + 2 Snacks)**

Sponsored by Japanese Association of MIT, co-sponsored by GSC Funding Board, and supported by:





# ARTS

## CONCERT REVIEW

# The Dork-Punk Renaissance

## Or, How Those Piano Lessons Might Actually Help You Get Laid

By Samuel Markson  
STAFF WRITER  
Ben Folds  
Johnson Athletic Center  
April 24, 2009

The 50s had housewives and modular homes. The 60s had race riots and pot. The 70s had prog rock and wide ties. The 80s had punk and cocaine. The 90s had hip-hop.

We've got less than a year left in the decade, and that means we're in the home stretch to come up with buzzwords to define the last ten years, so we can look back and pretend we know what the fuck just happened. And the problem is: we already have them. 6 billion-fold. This is the oft-cited YouTube generation, where all it takes to make it big is a smile, a catchphrase, a webcam, and a heavy dose of absurdism. We don't make culture, we excrete it. There are no more filters, no more central opinions. If you can dream it (...n girls, n-1 cups...) someone has already done it. And we're all a little numb.

We want someone we can trust, someone who can guide us through this 4chan-induced cultural shitstorm, a Walter Cronkite for our virtual 'Nam, an FDR to sit us down and tell us that it's all going to be OK.

Ladies and gentlemen, Ben Folds.

Folds is no superhero. He's just a wee bit chubby, soft-spoken, sporting acetate frames and playing a grand piano. But he might just be our Moses when it comes to guiding pop mu-

sic through the Red Sea of the 21st century. Before Folds, pop music had broken into two camps: trashy superficialism and pretentious hipster douchebaggery. It's indie rock and a trashy superficial high place, and culture is finally getting a little tired of it. We aren't looking for a revolution anymore. We just want a decent compromise.

For the hipster camp, Ben Folds has a dorky exterior and ironic lyrics (his mellowed-out cover of "Bitches Ain't Shit" is his most popular song). For the more bubble-gummy pop camp, Folds has unendingly whistleable songs, like "Zak and Sara." And he's well-respected as a standalone instrumentalist, putting on shows with the Boston Pops as well as several other well-known orchestras. His songs have French horn licks. He'll stick Al-toid tins in a grand piano to see how it sounds. He sings about love and loss like everybody

else, but his love and loss seem to be just a little bit deeper, a little bit quieter, a little more subtle. It's the same message as before, but not administered quite so crudely. We've been so lobotomized by conflicting stimuli, all fighting for our attention, that all we really want or need is a love song that doesn't make us nauseous.

I'm not going to pretend that Ben Folds never has his head at least a little of the way up his ass. I find "Bitches" a little too self-consciously ironic, and his impromptu song about how last Saturday's audience was so respectful and so-

ber (unlike his past ones) was just a little to the left of precious. But we're listening to him anyway, and that is important. Pop music is changing, and I couldn't say whether Folds is the shepherd here or merely a particularly noticeable sheep, but either way, it gives me some hope.

Welcome to the Ben Folds generation, bitches.

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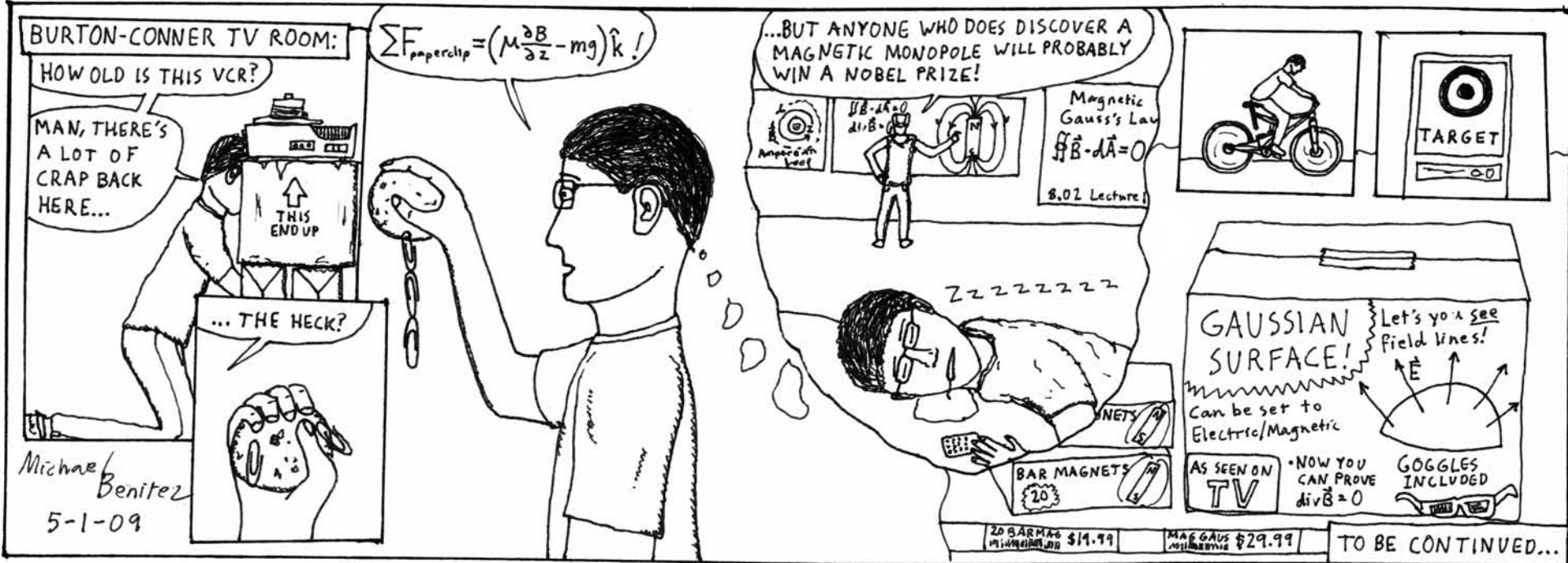
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<sup>1</sup> Yes, it's possible AND delicious!

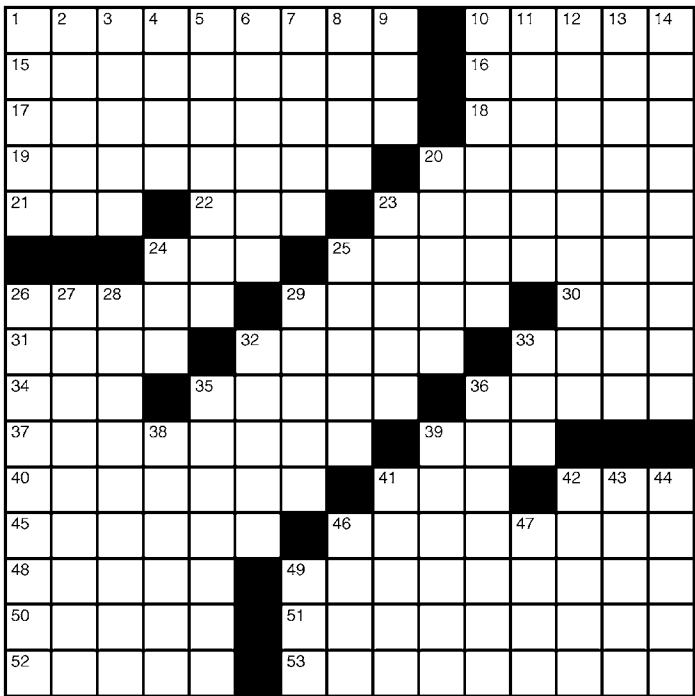
The Help Desk

by Michael Benitez



Crossword Puzzle

Solution, page 13



ACROSS

- 1 Reach maturity
- 10 Take place
- 15 Puts in too much
- 16 Avignon's river
- 17 Beach pests
- 18 Viola da \_\_ (bass viol)
- 19 Tall and branching
- 20 Battled belligerently
- 21 Part of CBS
- 22 "A Chorus Line" number
- 23 Language of Bangladesh
- 24 Valise
- 25 Made important
- 26 Didn't spare the rod
- 29 Location of the Potala
- 30 Night before
- 31 O.T. book
- 32 Hotel employees
- 33 Pub choices
- 34 Greenish sloths
- 35 Openly criticize
- 36 Stephen and Billy
- 37 Laundry detergent additive

- 39 Asian frying pan
- 40 Green beryl
- 41 Cotillion attendee, for short
- 42 Novello of "SNL"
- 45 McMurtry novel, "Streets of \_\_"
- 46 Lounging attire
- 48 Day's march
- 49 Slowpokes
- 50 Passive protest
- 51 Most macabre
- 52 Desert Storm missiles
- 53 Disrobes

DOWN

- 1 Expenses
- 2 Egg-producing organ
- 3 First king of Egypt
- 4 "Das Lied von der \_\_"
- 5 Remove, as cargo
- 6 Type of cabinet
- 7 The same
- 8 Delight
- 9 Start of something?
- 10 Sheer, stiff fabric

- 11 Coulomb measure
- 12 Buddy-buddy
- 13 No one's sweetheart
- 14 Set state
- 20 Shortstop Walt
- 23 Ratlike, eyeswise
- 24 Place for flowers
- 25 Make cloth gathers
- 26 Without stop
- 27 Self-evident
- 28 1922 vampire film
- 29 Pulled strings?
- 32 \_\_ Park, NJ
- 33 Thumbs up for John Glenn
- 35 Muffles
- 36 "Road" movies star
- 38 Timorous
- 39 More soaked
- 41 Took risks
- 42 Apothecary measures
- 43 Way too flabby
- 44 Avian abodes
- 46 Given life
- 47 Social reformer Jacob
- 49 Fort Worth sch.

Pseudoscience

by Daniel Klein-Marcuschamer

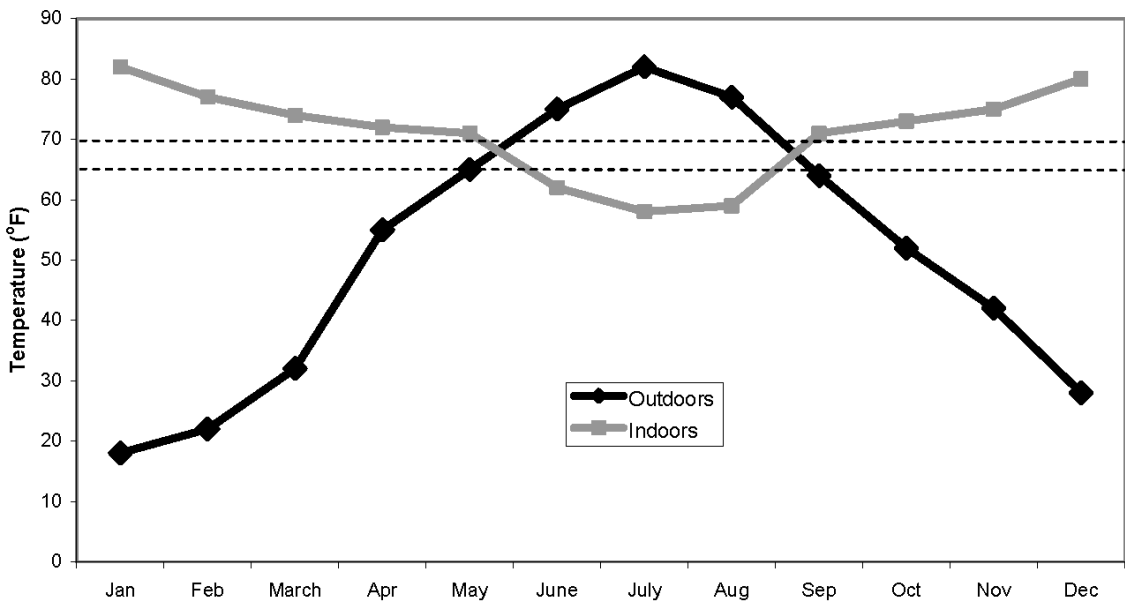


Figure 56. The plot shows average indoor and outdoor temperatures for the Boston area throughout the year. A temperature of about 65-70 °F is considered ideal by consensus (dashed lines), and, even though the outdoor averages of two months are close to this range, day-to-day variation ensures that Boston's weather is non-ideal year-round. Contrary to expectations, the indoor temperature is not inside the range either, being too low in the summer and too high in the winter. This implies that one could always produce some work by running a heat engine if the direction of heat flow can be arbitrarily reversed (and sell it back to the building, if possible). At least one such business plan is expected in upcoming 100K competitions. (Archives available at <http://pseudocomic.blogspot.com>)

The Daily Blunderbuss

by Ben Peters

Physics is dangerous.

So, the torque comes out of the page?



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by Michael Ciuffo



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Dilbert® by Scott Adams

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Instructions: Fill in the grid so that each column, row, and 3 by 3 grid contains exactly one of each of the digits 1 through 9.

Solution on page 13

		8	2					4
6				1				8
				8	4	3	6	
7		1						
	5						4	
						1		2
	6	7	3	5				
2				9				1
9					1	8		

Solution, tips, and computer program at <http://www.sudoku.com>

Bonus Crossword

Solution, page 11

ACROSS

- 1 Confound it!
- 5 Cut, as wood
- 9 Gina of “Our Friends in the North”
- 14 Understanding words
- 15 Patella location
- 16 Still in the game
- 17 Call it quits
- 20 Red Sox great Williams
- 21 “Sands of \_\_\_ Jima”
- 22 Trail-mix bites
- 23 First-hand, like inspections
- 25 Ballet \_\_\_ of Monte Carlo
- 26 Sea World performer
- 28 Contents of a will
- 32 Call it quits
- 36 Gained a lap
- 37 Mayberry boy
- 38 Excessively
- 39 Light melody
- 40 Shaggy ox
- 41 Call it quits
- 45 Pupil’s paper
- 47 Pretty Boy \_\_\_
- 48 Skaters’ jumps
- 50 Atlanta team
- 54 Debate again
- 57 Honey ending?
- 58 Indignation
- 59 Call it quits

- 62 “Entertaining Mr. Sloane” playwright
- 63 Captain of the Nautilus
- 64 Tissue additive
- 65 Pirouettes
- 66 “Voice of Israel” author
- 67 “Mr. Mom” star

DOWN

- 1 Likewise!
- 2 Drained of color
- 3 Social misfits
- 4 Logical start?
- 5 Slope attire
- 6 Part of A.D.
- 7 Dripping
- 8 India’s Jawaharlal
- 9 “The Dance” painter
- 10 Storage cabinet
- 11 Chinese gooseberry
- 12 Flush
- 13 Sniggler’s prey
- 18 Tough twig of willow
- 19 Stand for art
- 24 \_\_\_ of Man
- 25 Tiebreakers
- 27 Remote button
- 29 Polo’s destination
- 30 Barbershop dust

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13
14					15					16				
17				18					19					
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23			24				25							
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32	33	34						35				36		
37							38				39			
40				41	42				43	44				
45			46				47							
			48			49			50			51	52	53
54	55	56						57				58		
59							60				61			
62						63					64			
65						66					67			

- 31 Major ending?
- 32 Pitcher Wilhelm
- 33 Brilliant fish
- 34 Similar
- 35 Refrigerate
- 39 Clytemnestra’s mother
- 41 Some revolvers
- 42 Deplete
- 43 Singer/actor Paul
- 44 Funeral piles
- 46 Akkadian kingdom’s founder
- 49 Sierra \_\_\_
- 51 Chamber music instrument
- 52 Typo
- 53 Passover meal
- 54 Greek letters
- 55 OK Corral participant
- 56 Opposing position
- 57 Synagogue platform
- 60 Beak
- 61 Tail greeting

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# Tuitions Rise, Family Incomes Drop, and One Student Struggles

**Tuition**, from Page 1

Not only have families' incomes been falling as their savings have dwindled, but also tuition has been rising — including proposed increases of nearly 10 percent next year throughout the University of California system. (Brennan would face bills nearly as high as Berkeley's at the University of California campuses in Los Angeles and Davis, the only other colleges to accept him; Stanford, a private university that typically offers full scholarships to families with incomes under \$60,000, rejected him. Berkeley offered him only \$212 in scholarship money.)

While private colleges have vowed to protect financial aid in hard times, some of the most reliable independent scholarship programs have been reduced or discontinued this year — including some that lost portions of their endowments to Bernard L. Madoff's vast Ponzi scheme — further raising the competition for those that remain.

Interest rates on student loans, including on popular federal programs like the unsubsidized Stafford (now nearly 7 percent) and Parent Plus (8.5 percent), are running several percentage points higher than the rates on secured loans, like home equity lines of credit.

"The difference of rates between secured and unsecured loans is higher than I have ever seen," said Scott White, director of counseling services at Westfield High School in New Jersey. "This is one further impediment to access to post-secondary education for all but the well-to-do."

Judy Campbell, Brennan's guidance counselor at Hollywood High School, where three of every four students qualify for a free or reduced-price lunch, suggested that his family is "not poor enough for need-based aid, and not rich enough to write a check."

When asked over dinner whether she felt guilty that Brennan had taken so much upon himself, his mother, Caryn, began to cry. "We didn't expect to end up in this situation," she said.

Tuition, board and other expenses at Berkeley are estimated at \$27,000. Last year, the family's income was \$58,000, when Caryn Jackson's wages from teaching were combined with revenue from a portion of a rental property. The family cannot sell the property because it does not own it outright, and Campbell believes that the investment reduced the direct aid Brennan might have received.

Brennan's father, Aaron, who was laid off as an accountant more than a

year ago, acknowledged that his son had few options. He said his lack of steady income prevented the family from refinancing the \$500,000 mortgage on its cramped, nearly 90-year-old, two-bedroom home or taking on additional debt.

Aaron Jackson said his job search had been frustrating: He said he had been deemed overqualified for some jobs in recent months, and underqualified for others. His previous job with a real estate company paid about \$75,000 annually.

Which is not to say that the family hasn't been doing its part to offset its expenses.

They have reduced visits to the dentist from twice a year, to once; saved \$45 a month in groomers' fees by trimming the hair of their two dogs themselves; returned one of their cars, a Honda CRV on a lease, to the dealer; stopped eating in restaurants; and deferred home repairs.

As May 1, the day his \$100 deposit was due at Berkeley, was drawing near, Brennan said he had netted about \$1,500 in outside scholarships, mostly from the California Scholarship Federation, a statewide organization. He is also a finalist for a scholarship from the Rotary Club of Los Angeles that could be worth \$2,000. And he was preparing to submit his application for a \$5,000 grant from an organization called DREAMS. (Developing a Responsible, Educated and Moral Society). "Five thousand dollars isn't a small contribution," Brennan said. But even with that infusion, he said, his situation "would still be problematic."

He said he had been filling out two applications a night, most of them requiring original essays, for more than month.

The only part-time jobs he has found are as a baby sitter and as a student poll worker in a statewide special election in mid-May. (His pay for that day's work — which, a form letter from the county clerk assured, "looks great on college/scholarship applications" — will be \$105.)

While many of the scholarship organizations will not send out their decisions until later this spring, or even in the summer, Brennan said he knew he could tap one additional source should he come up short: the \$15,000 remaining in a college savings account his father had established for him, which had been worth upward of \$30,000 less than a year ago. The problem, Brennan said, was that the account was intended to last four years.

Then there is the matter of his sister, Elise, 16, a junior who will be applying to college next year, meaning his parents will have two children in college at the same time for three years.

Asked whether she had a preliminary plan of attack, Elise said she did: to gain admission to a wealthy, highly selective private college that, unlike the California system, might pay her tuition in full.



BIYEUN BUCZYK—THE TECH

**Professor Linn W. Hobbs communicates with ham radio operators across the globe using the MIT Radio Society's beam antenna on the roof of Walker Memorial. Thursday marked the 100th anniversary of the club's founding. The club will be operating a special event station through May 14 and will be having a reunion this summer.**

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**By Lisa W. Foderaro**  
*THE NEW YORK TIMES*

---

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y.

John Belushi memorialized them in *Animal House* as he stockpiled edible projectiles for an epic food fight. Generations of college students in the Northeast have deployed them as makeshift sleds. But the once-ubiquitous cafeteria tray, with so many glasses of soda, juice and milk lined up across the top, could soon join the typewriter as a campus relic.

Scores of colleges and universities across the country are shelving the trays in hopes of conserving water, cutting food waste, softening the ambience and saving money. Some even believe trayless cafeterias could help avoid the dreaded “freshman 15” — the number of pounds supposedly gained in the first year on campus (and on all-you-can-eat meal plans). “I like not having to carry a tray around,” said Peter McInerney, a freshman here at Skidmore College, as he grabbed a midafternoon snack of an egg sandwich, pancakes and apple juice. “It makes it feel like this is less of a machine just spitting food out. It’s still not home, but it feels more homey without the tray.”

The Sustainable Endowments Institute, a research organization that tracks environmental practices at the 300 colleges and universities with the largest endowments, said that 126 of them had curtailed use of trays, some of them banishing trays only from certain dining halls, and some introducing, for example, “trayless Tuesdays.” Such moves are often part of a larger push to embrace environmentalism that includes hiring sustainability coordinators, introducing solar panels, composting dining-hall waste and encouraging students to turn off lights with catchy sayings like “Do It in the Dark.”

“The trend has definitely taken off,” said Mark Orlowski, executive director of the institute, which this fall plans to add a question about trayless cafeterias to an annual survey that includes other dining-related topics like vegan entrees, biodegradable containers and community gardens. “It reduces not just waste, but energy and water consumption. Over all, it’s been very successful.”

Joseph H. Spina, executive director of the National Association of College and University Food Services, described trayless dining as "sort of the hot thing right now."

"There was a smattering of it 18 months ago," he said, "but every week I'm picking up another campus or two that's adopting it."

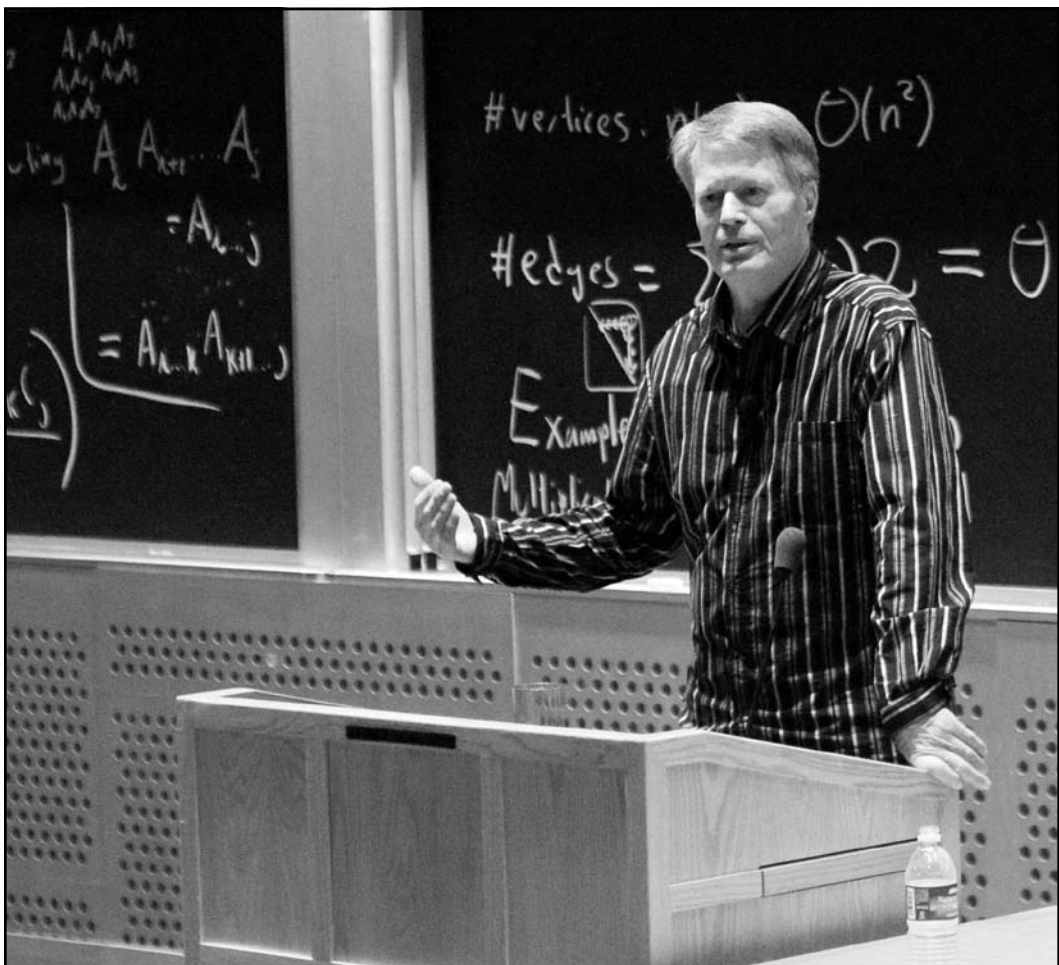
At Williams College in western Massachusetts, the Zilkha Center for Environmental Initiatives estimates that the college is saving 14,000 gallons of water annually since eliminating trays last spring at Driscoll, one of four campus dining halls, where 147,000 trays had been washed a year. The other dining halls are scheduled to go trayless in the fall.

At the Rochester Institute of Technology, which stopped using trays last summer, the manager of the Grace Watson Dining Hall, one

of five on campus, said she had seen a marked drop in food waste, estimating that the school saved 10 percent on food spending despite rising ingredient costs.

“With the trays, you come in and often your eyes are bigger than your stomach,” said the manager, Janet Olivieri, who frequently eats at the dining hall and has lost 10 pounds since the change. “This way they can only get what they can carry on one plate. If the customer wants more, they have to make a conscious decision to come back for it.”

At Cornell University, where 5 of the 10 dining halls have done away with trays since September, the biggest pushback has come from faculty. "They were more boisterous than anyone," said Gail T. Finan, the university's director of dining and retail services. "A couple of professors sent me e-mails saying, 'This is ridiculous.'" Skidmore, a pioneer in trayless dining, tried to minimize the jolt by implementing the changes between the spring and fall semesters in 2006, when the cafeteria, the Murray-Aikins Dining Hall, underwent a \$10 million overhaul.



MENG HENG TOUCH—THE TECH

**The 2008 Nobel Prize Winner in Literature, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, answers questions from the audience during a discussion in 32-123 on Tuesday.**

...d out. It's still not home, but it feels more homey without the tray."

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### Solution to Bonus

from page 9

D	A	N	G	S	A	W	N	M	C	K	E	E			
I	S	E	E	K	N	E	E	A	L	I	V	E			
T	H	R	O	W	I	N	T	H	E	T	O	W	E	L	
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O	R	T	O	N		N	E	M	O		A	L	O	E	
S	P	I	N	S		E	B	A	N		G	A	R	R	





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**Friday, May 1**  
8 PM in 10-250

# Most Polled Teachers Say Students Aren't Seeking a Challenge

AP Tests, from Page 1

from 1.1 million, from the school year ended 2004 to that ended 2008. The number of A.P. exams those students took — with hopes, in part, of gaining exemption from some college class work, depending on how well they scored — increased by 50 percent, to 2.7 million.

The study found that the teachers were generally satisfied with the program's quality. But when they were asked to explain the growing allure of A.P. classes and tests, 90 percent attributed it largely to "more students who want their college applications to look better."

"Only 32 percent attribute A.P. growth to more students who want to be challenged at a higher academic level," the researchers wrote, leading the authors to conclude that students were often enrolling in Advanced Placement courses "for utilitarian or pragmatic reasons, not intellectual aspirations."

And according to the study, it is not just the students who are motivated in that way. The researchers also noted teachers' concerns about high schools' seeking "to burnish their reputation by showcasing A.P." For example, the study found that 75 percent of teachers believed that school administrators were expanding A.P. courses "to improve their school's ranking and reputation in the community."

That the democratization of the A.P. curriculum has sometimes come at a price was evident in the response of teachers when they were asked if their students were ready and able to handle the work in such courses. More than half, 56 percent, said they believed that "too many students overestimate their abilities and are in over their heads." Even more teachers, 60 percent, said that "parents push their children into A.P. classes when they really don't belong there."

Fifty-two percent said such courses should be open only to students who could demonstrate that they could handle the work.

Michael J. Petrilli, a vice president at the Fordham Institute, said he detected a tension within the results, given teachers' hopes that a generally good program would not be weakened by making it too accessible. In that respect, the findings support Fordham's general position that the nation's current focus on raising basic skills sometimes neglects a need for the continued growth and challenging of high-achieving students.

Trevor Packer, a vice president of the College Board, which administers

the Advanced Placement program, said he welcomed the report as a means of further illuminating the push-pull between "equity and excellence."

"We certainly see situations in which A.P. is provided in classrooms where students haven't received adequate preparation, and the test scores catch that: all of the students getting 1s," Mr. Packer said, a reference to the lowest score on the exams, which are graded 1 to 5. "In other situations, though, we see schools providing double the number of seats in A.P. classrooms they did several years ago, and the mean exam scores have increased."

"We're really excited about the questions the report asks," he added, "and the answers it's found to date, but more important, the way this situates the discourse for future conversations."



ManYan Lam '11 lies down on a bed of electronically actuated cylinders at the Silent Dance Party held last Saturday at the Center for Advanced Visual Studies. The cylinders vibrate, going along with the music that she hears; it was part of a workshop using low-frequency vibrations which included students from Gallaudet University, a school for the deaf.

## Awards Convocation 2009

A special thank-you to all of our community members who submitted nominations this year.

# You're Invited!

Join your fellow MIT Community members at the 2009 Awards Convocation.

**Tuesday, May 5, 2009**

4:00 p.m.  
Room 10-250

Gala reception to follow in Lobby 10

### Solution to Sudoku

from page 9

3	7	8	2	6	5	9	1	4
6	9	4	7	1	3	2	5	8
5	1	2	9	8	4	3	6	7
7	2	1	8	4	6	5	9	3
8	5	9	1	3	2	7	4	6
4	3	6	5	7	9	1	8	2
1	6	7	3	5	8	4	2	9
2	8	5	4	9	7	6	3	1
9	4	3	6	2	1	8	7	5

### Solution to Crossword

from page 8

C	O	M	E	O	F	A	G	E		O	C	C	U	R
O	V	E	R	F	I	L	L	S		R	H	O	N	E
S	A	N	D	F	L	I	E	S		G	A	M	B	A
T	R	E	E	L	I	K	E		W	A	R	R	E	D
S	Y	S		O	N	E		B	E	N	G	A	L	I
		B	A	G		S	E	I	Z	E	D	O	N	
C	A	N	E	D		L	H	A	S	A		E	V	E
E	X	O	D		M	A	I	D	S		A	L	E	S
A	I	S		D	E	C	R	Y		B	O	Y	D	S
S	O	F	T	E	N	E	R		W	O	K			
E	M	E	R	A	L	D		D	E	B		D	O	N
L	A	R	E	D	O		B	A	T	H	R	O	B	E
E	T	A	P	E		T	O	R	T	O	I	S	E	S
S	I	T	I	N		C	R	E	E	P	I	E	S	T
S	C	U	D	S		U	N	D	R	E	S	S	E	S

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# If You're Sick, Don't Attend Classes, Says MIT VP

Swine Flu, from Page 1

dents, the *Globe* reported.

While the World Health Organization is close to declaring a pandemic outbreak of the disease, MIT remains prepared to handle the situation as a tough flu season.

Posters have gone up across campus advertising basic messages: practice good hygiene and avoid sick people. (And if you're sick, avoid healthy people.) MIT Medical is prepared to handle an influx of patients and has stocked an inventory of anti-flu drugs.

For now, the Institute is working to prevent the flu, not to contain it. MIT's contingency plans for a pandemic could at worst include changing the way Commencement runs or sending some students home.

A speech by the Dalai Lama in Kresge Auditorium went on as planned yesterday. Attendees were asked to skip the event if they felt sick.

Meanwhile, a top MIT administrator asked MIT community members to protect the Institute by staying home if they became ill.

"MIT is a place where persevering through hardship to get the job done is common practice. However, in the public-health situation we are

facing, the most valuable thing you can do for the extended family of MIT is to stay home if you are sick," wrote Kirk D. Kolenbrander Vice President for Institute Affairs and Secretary of the Corporation, in the letter.

"Staff members who are experiencing flu-like symptoms should not come to work, and students who have symptoms should not attend classes, social gatherings or other campus events," he wrote.

The message for students is clear. But the letter also sends a more subtle message to managers: instead of pushing for attendance, let your staff stay home if they're sick.

**Why do people care about swine flu?**

From watching the TV news, or reading Twitter, or reading one of dozens of e-mail forwards passed among mailing lists about a friend's illness, one might get the impression that swine flu is the next big plague.

Actually, getting the flu probably just means you'll have a tough week. But for some especially vulnerable people, a widespread flu outbreak could be life-threatening.

The swine flu — Influenza A subtype H1N1 — first attracted international concern late last week when it began to be blamed for a string of

deaths in Mexico which now number more than 150.

In the United States, only one person has died among the 109 cases confirmed by the Centers for Disease Control on Thursday morning. The victim was a toddler in a Texas city near the Mexican border.

So far swine flu seems less deadly than, for instance, avian flu H5N1, which has killed 257 of the 421 who have contracted it, according to the World Health Organization.

Influenza can cause dangerous complications in the very young or elderly and in people with asthma or pneumonia. The 2008–9 flu vaccine, given to many at-risk people, probably does not protect against H1N1 swine flu, according to the CDC. A widespread flu could infect many vulnerable people.

On Wednesday, the WHO said that a global pandemic of the disease is imminent by raising its global pandemic level to 5, the second highest level.

As of Thursday afternoon, swine flu had been confirmed in Massachusetts in only two people, children in Lowell who had recently returned from Mexico. As of Wednesday, 40 samples had been sent from Massachusetts to the CDC for testing, the Associated Press reported.

## Dalai Lama Says He Admires Bush's Straightforwardness, But That's All

Dalai Lama, from Page 1

Honesty is important in every line of work, from politics to science to finance, he said. Greed was a source of the economic crisis, he said.

He praised countries like the United States for their commitment to human rights, contrasting them with China, whose government's 1950 takeover of Tibet has been a source of tension within and outside the Buddhist community for more than half a century.

The current Dalai Lama — whose full title is His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, Tenzin Gyatso — is the fourteenth in a line of leaders chosen to lead Tibet and its form of Buddhism. He grew up in Tibet at a time when China began mounting pressure against the Tibetan regime to its west. He fled to India after leading a failed uprising against China fifty years ago.

Although the Dalai Lama did make oblique references to his half century of exile from Tibet, the leader, when asked to compare the plight

of Tibetans to that of Native Americans, said he did not see the need to hold a grudge.

"There's no point in keeping such grievance," said the Dalai Lama. "That's all in the past."

The 73-year-old Dalai Lama was clearly not a native English speaker — he struggled, once, to find the word "hacking" — but his message over an hour and a half was clear and his jokes never fell flat.

The Dalai Lama invented outlandish technological concepts, such as bullets that go around innocents and only hit decision-makers, to convey his concepts. He also drew laughter and surprise when he unveiled and put on a red visor and later removed it as he noted that some detractors call him evil.

"Can't you see my horns?" he joked.

The Center for Ethics and Transformative Values will confront pressing modern ethical issues, including questions related to sustainability, conflict resolution, and holistic education. The center will be housed

under the Office of Religious Life at MIT.

The organization will consider both secular and theological perspectives and will collaborate with other groups at MIT and in other countries, such as the Center for Human Development in New Delhi, India.

After his speech, the Dalai Lama answered questions, including one about model leaders. He singled out President George W. Bush for his straightforwardness, but stopped short on complimenting him for much else.

"I love him", said the Dalai Lama of President Bush, "but as far as his policies are concerned, I have reservations."

Even as the Dalai Lama's on-stage acquaintances gave signals indicating that time was running out, the Dalai Lama kept taking questions. But when a lengthy question about some of the new center's major concepts was posed, the Dalai Lama concluded the talk.

"I think that's for my next speech," he said.

Swine Flu Q&A

¶ **What should I do?** Wash your hands. Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth when you're out in public; you might touch something which a sick person touched or coughed on. Cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.

¶ **What are swine flu's symptoms?** The swine flu has the same symptoms as influenza: coughing, a sore throat, fever, headache, tiredness, and aches. Less common symptoms include diarrhea and vomiting. Fever, cough, and respiratory illness are the primary symptoms, the Centers for Disease Control said in a press briefing.

¶ **Can swine flu be treated?** Yes. According to the CDC, H1N1 is susceptible to antiviral drugs oseltamivir (Tamiflu) and zanamivir (Relenza). MIT Medical stocks both. Treatment with antivirals will shorten the duration of illness by a day or two, said Howard M. Heller, MIT Medical Chief of Internal Medicine.

¶ **I feel sick. Should I go to Medical?** Yes. Especially if you think you might have influenza, you should call the Medical Department for an appointment (617-253-4481). If none are available, you will be directed to MIT Medical's urgent care (open 24 hours a day, free for students).

¶ **I don't feel sick. Should I go to Medical anyway?** No. Try not to hang out around sick people during flu season. MIT Medical's Urgent Care counts as "around sick people."

¶ **Should I go to Mexico?** Avoid nonessential travel to Mexico, the Centers for Disease Control said on Monday night in an advisory available online at <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/>. If you've recently come back from Mexico and don't feel ill, you're probably fine.

## Students React, A Bit, To Blue Ribbon Plans At In-Dorm Meetings

Dining Proposals, from Page 1

minimum would help reduce the current dining system's operating deficit, said Donna M. Denoncourt, chair of the Blue Ribbon committee and associate dean of residential life.

Michelle E. Marcus '09, a resident of McCormick who was eating in its dining hall yesterday evening, said that she could understand potentially closing McCormick's dining hall if it did not work out financially, but said that it would not be ideal. According to the Dining Proposal Committee report, the McCormick dining hall loses the most money of the on-campus dining halls.

Lee said that she was not sure she liked the idea of a large dining hall, as the student dining committee proposed. It could be "inconvenient for people," and "the lines could be long," she said.

Bryan A. Macomber '12, a resident of Baker, said he thinks the idea for a centralized dining hall is a good one. He said that he likes to have "as much variety as possible."

Christopher M. Hendrix '12, also a Baker resident, agreed. "It seems more efficient moneywise," he said.

"Pretty much every college does that," said Columbus P. Leonard '12, also a Baker resident.

Many students interviewed for this article said they cooked at home. Nicole Holm '11, a resident of Burton-Conner, said that the proposed dining changes wouldn't affect her, because she cooks in her residence.

The student Dining Proposal Committee included a section recommending keeping kitchens in dormitories. The Blue Ribbon committee has also heard feedback asking that they make sure students have access to kitchens.

**Students meet, offer feedback**

Both dining committees solicited student feedback on their draft proposals this past week. Attendance to open meetings publicized by the groups was generally low. One notable was at East Campus, which does

not have a dining hall. (Kitchens were installed in East Campus and Senior House in 1983 as a result of a student proposal.)

At East Campus, the Blue Ribbon committee feedback meeting was attended by about 25 people. The Blue Ribbon feedback meeting there was held during East Campus' house meeting.

The Blue Ribbon committee held open feedback meetings in the dining halls in Baker House, McCormick Hall, Next House, and Simmons Hall. No students attended the meetings at Baker, Next, and Simmons, Denoncourt said. Five students attended the McCormick meeting.


No students who were not members of the Dining Proposal Committee appeared for the DPC's meeting on April 29.

People might have skipped that meeting because "students feel it's safer because students are authoring the [DPC] report," said Abdulaziz M. Albahar '10, former president of Baker House and newly elected Dormitory Council president. With the end of the semester approaching, students have been busy, he said.

Students had been promised two weeks to give feedback on the Blue Ribbon report but it looks like they will receive less, said Vrajesh Y. Modi '11, East Campus senator, at the feedback meeting in EC. That committee's draft report was released in the evening on Monday, April 27, and the final report is due on Friday, May 8. In addition, feedback received next week, closer to the deadline, is probably less likely to make it into the final report, he said.

The Blue Ribbon committee has considered extending the time window for feedback but has not made a decision.

Both committees are in the process of incorporating feedback received this week into their final reports. Feedback to the Blue Ribbon committee can be sent to [blue-ribbon@mit.edu](mailto:blue-ribbon@mit.edu), and feedback to the Dining Proposal Committee can be sent to [ua-dpc@mit.edu](mailto:ua-dpc@mit.edu).



Renaldo M. Webb '10 (left) presented his project for the 2009 MIT IDEAS Competition at a poster and judging event on Monday evening in Lobby 10 and the Bush room.

MICHAEL K. YU

E-mail of the Week\*

In an e-mail Sunday to the MacGregor House mailing list, Constantine G. Speridakos '09 detailed his commencement ticket odyssey:

"If anybody has some available, all ten phalanxes of my Spartan family would greatly appreciate it. And yes, the Spartans really were two feet shorter than Gerard Butler."

\*E-mail of the Week quotations are used with permission.



## **The Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding System (Sloanbid)** **Bidding Dates for Fall, 2009 Courses**

**<https://sloanbid.mit.edu>**

*First time logging in? Use your MIT ID as both your log in and password. Follow instructions on the site to change your password or retrieve lost passwords. Once logged in, make sure and check that your information (i.e. program of study and graduation date) is correct.*

Institute-wide bidding for Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Tuesday, May 12

Closes 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, May 19

Waitlist Round for closed Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Monday, July 13

Closes 5:00 p.m., Monday, July 27

Section Swap Round for changing sections of pre-enrolled Sloan (Course 15) subjects:

Opens 9:00 a.m., Thursday, July 30

Close 5:00 p.m., Thursday, August 6

Please contact Scott Alessandro, [sallessan@mit.edu](mailto:sallessan@mit.edu), if you have questions regarding Sloan (Course 15) Course Bidding.

***Successful bids will appear on your Registration Form on September 8 and will be posted on the bidding website as of July 13 -- write down your password to check results!***

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SPORTS

MLB's April Surprises: Mariners, Marlins Still Hold Division Leads

By David Zhu  
SPORTS EDITOR

Two weeks ago, I made some comments and predictions about the young baseball season. Now, as teams wrap up their first month of play and we enter May, here's the follow-up to that previous column, as promised...

Some sense of normalcy has returned to the American League East division standings. While (as of Wednesday) the Toronto Blue Jays lead the division, the Red Sox have returned to the front of the pack, thanks to an eleven-game winning streak. The Rays, perhaps intimidated by actual expectations to win this season, are back in last place. And as for the Yankees — their quarter-billion dollar spending spree has netted them a .500 record (my previous prediction still stands).

Surprisingly, though, the Mariners and Marlins have still managed to hold onto their respective division

leads. For Florida, their hot start compensated for getting swept in back-to-back series; Seattle's strong starting rotation has carried the team through their offensive struggles.

And continuing last column's predictions/random guesses, my picks for this season's individual awards:

A.L. Most Valuable Player: Ian Kinsler, Texas Rangers 2B — Kinsler has gotten off to a torrid start, and is among the league leaders in both home runs and RBI. He went 6-for-6 and hit for the cycle earlier this month, and as the season progresses, he will continue to rack up numbers, especially at hitter-friendly Rangers Ballpark.

A.L. Cy Young: Zack Grienke, Kansas City Royals SP — Grienke has yet to allow an earned run this season in four starts, going 4-0 including two straight complete games with ten strikeouts. Grienke, a first-round draft pick in 2002 who was supposed to be the franchise player

for the Royals, might finally be living up to his potential.

A.L. Rookie of the Year: Matt Wieters, Baltimore Orioles C — Wieters, probably the most-hyped prospect in baseball, started the season in the minors; he'll likely remain there until mid-summer so the Orioles can delay his arbitration clock (i.e. save money). Sports writers have already called him a future hall-of-famer and wondered (jokingly?) why Baltimore hasn't retired his number yet. Hopefully he lives up to expectations, because right now all he's doing (aside from crushing minor-league pitching) is taking up a bench spot on my fantasy baseball team...

N.L. Most Valuable Player: Albert Pujols, St. Louis Cardinals 1B — Pujols has picked up right where his 2008 campaign left off. Not only does he lead the majors in RBI, he has contributed three stolen bases thus far and is a big reason the Cardinals are in first place in the N.L. Central right now. Elbow problems, for which he will get surgery after this season, do not appear to be slowing him down, and he is well on his way to a second consecutive MVP award.

N.L. Cy Young: Dan Haren, Arizona Diamondbacks SP — Maybe I'm just picking him out of pity: Haren has a losing record (2-3) despite a 1.54 ERA and 0.74 WHIP. He hasn't allowed more than two runs in any of his outings, but Arizona's offense is providing little run support. If he continues pitching like this, the runs — and wins — will come, and he will be a clear choice for the league's best pitcher.

N.L. Rookie of the Year: Dexter Fowler, Colorado Rockies OF — There's no clear choice here, so I'll go with another player who's currently occupying a roster spot on my fantasy team. The Rockies' leadoff man is fast — as evidenced by his five steals against San Diego earlier this week, tying a rookie record. He is getting on base more often — taking walks and bunting for hits — which should translate into many stolen bases over the summer.

Disagree? Think you can make better picks? Disgruntled Yankees fan wishing to express your despair? Send it to [sports@tech.mit.edu](mailto:sports@tech.mit.edu)!

Women's Tennis Falls Against Bowdoin and Trinity Over Weekend

By Jennifer Rees  
TEAM MEMBER

This past weekend the MIT women's tennis team played Bowdoin College and Trinity College, losing to both in tough matches.

First was Bowdoin on Saturday. The team was graced with two important fans at the away match. One was their adopted teammate Caroline Hamilton and her family, who always inspire the team. The other was the men's volleyball team's adopted teammate Jack, who came to support the team as well. Both are part of the Friends of Jaclyn program.

The doubles matches were played first. Melissa A. Diskin '11 and Anisa K. McCree '10 were off first, losing their tough match 8-2. Next off was the senior team of Yi Wang '09 and Karina N. Pikhart '09, losing their match 8-4. Last off, with an extremely tight match, was the number one team of Leslie A. Hansen '10 and Anastasia Vishnevetsky '12. Their final score was 9-8 (2). This left MIT behind 0-3 going into the singles matches.

In the singles matches, number six Kerry R. Weinberg '10 lost her match with a score of 6-2, 6-0. Pikhart lost her tough match 6-1, 6-3. Wang and Diskin both lost their matches 6-2, 6-3. Hansen secured the only MIT victory, winning with a score of 6-4, 6-2. The day ended with Vishnevetsky's match; she lost 7-6 (3), 6-1. MIT lost to Bowdoin 1-8.

The next and final match of the

season was on Sunday against Trinity College. The team was once again graced with some fans, Vishnevetsky's parents this time.

The match started on the muggy day with the doubles matches. First off was the team of Hansen and Vishnevetsky who won 8-3, giving MIT a good start to the day. Next off was the exhibition team of Weinberg and Jenny C. Dohlman '11. They lost their tough match 8-3. The next two teams off were Wang and Pikhart and McCree and Diskin, both with the same score of 8-5. Both matches were close with long points, and a ton of net play. The score was now 1-2, putting MIT behind going into the singles matches.

The first three singles matches finished close to one another. Jennifer A. Rees '11 was defeated 6-3, 6-2. Wang was defeated after a long, hard-fought match 6-0, 6-3. Diskin also fell after fighting hard in her match 6-0, 6-2.

This left MIT down 1-5 to Trinity. The remaining matches were all close and were won and lost by only a few points each. There was a small turning point after Hansen won her match 6-4, 7-5, putting MIT back on the board. Pikhart barely lost her match 6-4, 6-4. This left Vishnevetsky front and center. She won her grueling match 7-6 (5), 6-3, allowing MIT to have a finish of 3-6 in the final score.

The exhibition matches were also tough. Dohlman barely lost her hard fought match 6-3, 7-7. Weinberg split sets after fighting hard for the second set but lost in the third set tie breaker 6-2, 7-5, (1-10).

SCOREBOARD	
Baseball	
Tuesday, April 28, 2009	
MIT (22-11)	10
Worcester State College (26-12)	6
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	
Fisher College (26-18)	6
MIT (23-11)	14
Thursday, April 30, 2009	
University of Massachusetts Boston (17-20)	8
MIT (23-12)	6
Men's Lacrosse	
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	
MIT (7-8)	7
Wheaton College (7-6)	14
Women's Lacrosse	
Wednesday, April 29, 2009	
Mount Holyoke College (5-11)	6
MIT (13-4)	15
Sailing	
Saturday–Sunday, April 25–26, 2009	
Thompson Trophy	
MIT	13th of 18
Women's New England Championship	
MIT	10th of 15

UPCOMING HOME EVENTS	
<b>Saturday, May 2, 2009</b>	
Women's Lightweight Crew vs. Radcliffe College	9 a.m., Charles River
Men's Lacrosse Christopher Berg Memorial Alumni Game	1 p.m., Steinbrenner Stadium
<b>Sunday, May 3, 2009</b>	
Baseball vs. Suffolk University	1 p.m., Briggs Field

### The Tech's Athlete of the Week: Samuel Harmatz '12

The New England Women's and Men's Athletic Conference (NEW-MAC) announced its 2009 Men's Tennis All-Conference Team on Tuesday, with MIT picking up six first-team plaudits. Elia S. Harmatz '12 was voted Rookie of the Year, marking the Engineers' second straight selection and fourth overall.

MIT swept the First-Team Doubles awards, with Kevin Pang '11 and Ken Van Tilburg '11 leading the way in the No. 1 spot. David E. Iba '09 and Brian J. Wee '12 followed with Harmatz and Peden P. Nichols '09 rounding out the group.

Van Tilburg received his second straight First Team-selection in the No. 2 singles position as Harmatz received No. 4 singles accolades. Nichols capped his career with his seventh award after being named to the First Team for the No. 5 singles slot.

—Greg McKeever, DAPER Staff

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